What’s Your Story???

Educators do many things well, but as a profession we do not do a particularly good job of recognizing the exceptional things that we do in our schools and communities around the nation. This is something that must change—we must put more effort into choosing the narrative that we share about our schools and that our communities hear. How can we do this? It all starts with recognizing the exceptional leaders that we have in all our schools.

The MPA recognizes the incredible things going on in all Maine schools. We consistently ask for stories from school building leaders along with a picture of the event to share on our website and on social media. This simple act takes the building leader less than 10 minutes to write and send to us, and it takes about 10 minutes for us at the MPA to post the great story acknowledging the school for the “Positive Story of the Day” on the www.mpaprof.org website; on Facebook at MPA – Professional Division; on Twitter and Instagram @hollyblairmpa.

When these stories are shared, the school community takes tremendous pride in such recognition. Since our association first started this program two years ago, many schools have reached out to us and shared the incredible things going on in their school communities. No longer do the emails we receive for it start with, “I don’t know if this is what you are looking for,” or “You can use this if you think it is good enough.” Instead, we now tend to get emails that say: “I really hope you choose our school because this was a meaningful and impactful activity,” and “Look at the learning taking place!”

We Can Change the Narrative

Great things take place when great administrators share stories about their leadership in their buildings. The Positive Story of the Day demonstrates the amazing things taking place throughout the state and how we are recognizing building principals for their work.

Our schools face a pivotal moment in the recruitment and retention of classroom teachers and school leaders. Let us continue to spread the word about the excellent leadership that is in our schools. By doing so, we can ultimately change the narrative of public education and show how desirable a position the principalship truly is.

If we do not tell the stories of our incredible leaders, then someone else is going to tell these stories—and chances are they won’t be nearly as compelling as the stories we tell in our own words. It is time for us to tell the stories of our great schools and our great school leaders. As we move into another new year, our schools need the power of our voices, and they need to be recognized every single day.

What’s your story?
Click HERE to submit Your Positive Story of the Day!

~ Taken in part from the “What’s Your Story: Recognizing school leaders to leverage the profession” by Holly Blair. NASSP’s Principal Leadership Magazine, December 2022.

FREE: Job Vacancies Posting on the MPA Professional Webpage

The MPA is listing job postings for administrative positions (principal, assistant principal, dean of students, CTE directors, etc.) on the www.mpaprof.org website AT NO COST TO SCHOOL DISTRICTS! The only thing we will need is the title of the position, your district name, the date the application closes if you have one, and the link that will take potential applicants to YOUR site. Please email your job opening to Tammy at tmcnear@mpa.cc.
Recognition Counts

Take advantage of the numerous opportunities for you to nominate an exemplary member of our educational community in Maine. Commit a few moments to shine your light on excellence.

Larry LaBrie Award for Outstanding Contributions to the MPA Interscholastic Division

Do you know an outstanding contributor to the Interscholastic Division of the MPA as a building administrator, athletic administrator, or other person (i.e. site/meet director, coach, official, media, etc.)? Each year the MPA honors up to three recipients to be honored with the Larry LaBrie Award at the Spring Conference Awards Banquet. Click HERE.

Volunteer of the Year ~ Dr. Phyllis Deringis Service to Maine Youth Award

Do you know an outstanding adult volunteer who is making a difference for students in your school, your district, or possibly beyond? Each year the MPA honors up to two awardees with the Dr. Phyllis Deringis Service to Maine Youth Award at the Spring Conference Awards Banquet. Click HERE.

2023 Secretary of the Year Award

We all have them—the incredible people who know every student and parent in the school – the people who help keep the districts in order and organized – those who greet our students and communities and set the positive tone in our schools and districts—our AMAZING secretaries/administrative assistants. You can recognize their hard work and dedication by nominating them for the 2023 Secretary of the Year! All nominees will be considered for this honorable recognition. The Secretaries will be publicly announced at the Secretaries Conferences in April and then they will be honored at the MPA Spring Conference Awards Banquet. Click HERE.

For more information please Contact Tammy McNear at tmcnear@mpa.cc. Deadline for nominations and completed applications (as required) is January 30, 2023.
MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY

1 Pleasant Street  Castine, Maine 04420  mainemaritime.edu

December 2022

Dear Principal,

I am writing to share information on opportunities that Maine Maritime Academy holds for your students and colleagues. To date, we have been privileged to work with students from your community and are eager to build upon that relationship now and in the future.

As a longtime educator in Maine schools (39 years) and proud graduate of Maine Maritime Academy, I am pleased to relay the opportunities happening on our campus over the next several months. We will be welcoming prospective students’ weekdays with the opportunity to immerse themselves into what life is like at MMA on Monday’s and Fridays through our “Be a Mariner Day.” Tuesday to Friday we will also be welcoming students for a traditional campus experience which includes a presentation about MMA and a tour of our campus hosted by current students. We will also be hosting a Spring Open House on Saturday, April 01, 2023.

In addition to the opportunities for prospective students and families to visit our campus, I also want to let you know about our Discovery Voyage program. This is an interactive experience that can be accessed by teachers, guidance counselors, and extracurricular programs for students, grades 6-12, within your schools. This unique program provides students hands-on activities at Maine Maritime Academy where they may explore the myriad of career options that our college has to offer. Some of these opportunities include getting aboard our 500’ training ship, the State of Maine, time in our Bridge Simulator, Planetarium, or other labs specifically aligned to marine science, transportation, engineering, or logistics. Our program(s) can be tailored to groups of any size ranging from as few as 4 to 50 or more students. Participation is provided free of charge and lunch is included for all who attend.

To witness firsthand what your students can experience on our campus we invite you, teachers, and guidance counselors to visit MMA during a professional development day or another time that works for your schedule. Please join us to hear and witness how we can support your students in their career aspirations. We welcome any opportunity to host Maine students and educators free of charge for a day on campus with lunch included.

We are an outstanding Maine college with demonstrated success in developing leaders and world class industry professionals. Thank you for considering the possibilities and rewards that a Maine Maritime Academy education may hold for your students.

In closing, please consider a personal visit to our campus to experience unparalleled opportunities for Maine students today. If you are interested in learning more or have any questions, please contact me at marc.gousse@mma.edu.

Sincerely,

Marc Edward Gousse, Ed.D.
CDR, USN Ret.
MMA ‘82
Assistant Director of Admissions
~ MPA Photo Album ~

Mentor/Coach and Protégés Meetings
Year 2 ~ December 15, 2022
Year 1 ~ December 19, 2022
~ MPA Photo Album ~

Mentor/Coach and Protégés Meetings
Year 2 ~ December 15, 2022
Year 1 ~ December 19, 2022
Novel Effect creates lifelong readers & happier teachers

When educators use Novel Effect during storytime, they report:

- **9 in 10** children are more engaged in reading
- **8 in 10** children are more confident readers
- **8 in 10** children ask to read more often

(Source: 2021 Novel Effect subscriber survey)

4.9 out of 5 in the App Store! 4K+ ratings

The Novel Effect app follows along with interactive music and sound effects, making classroom read-alouds your students' and teachers' favorite part of their day.

"[With Novel Effect], teachers can focus on the text while the students get to explore another world through the background music and sound effects."

Nove! Effect is a tool to support foundational skills, including vocabulary and comprehension, which builds a love of reading—especially among our most reluctant readers."

Dr. Danielle Todd, Principal | Duello Elementary | NAESP

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Make Read-Alouds Magical

It's as easy as 1-2-3

1. **SELECT A BOOK**
   Choose a book from your existing library. Then search on the HOME screen in the Novel Effect app.

2. **PLAY**
   Tap PRINT to get started. When you hear the start chime, Novel Effect is ready to follow along as you read aloud.

3. **READ ALOUD**
   It's magical! Your students will hang onto your every word as the jungle dances, dragons roar, and the music captures their imaginations.

**PRO TIP**
Connect to a Bluetooth speaker for an immersive audio experience.

Join the Fun!
Sign up for a FREE Novel Effect account today to create magical moments when you read aloud.

Want to learn more?
For questions or comments, please contact: info@noveleffect.com

Interested in a whole school plan? Request a quote school-wide plan which covers all teachers, librarians, and staff (including substitute teachers) and please include

*Devices authorized by the educator as a classroom or student device are logged in anonymously, no personally identifiable information is collected.*
EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

HANDCRAFTED BEVERAGES AND DELICIOUS FOOD SERVED WITH POSITIVITY